

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 31, 2016

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Authorization to Enter into Contract with WellCare of New York, Inc

Dear Honorable Members:

WellCare of New York, Inc. is a health care insurance provider which focuses exclusively on providing government-sponsored managed care services, primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, to families, children, seniors and individuals. By entering into this contract, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) will be able to bill for services rendered to individuals with WellCare health insurance coverage.

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize entering into a contract with WellCare of New York, Inc. retroactive to March 1, 2016.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Health Department. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP:lmg
CC: Health Commissioner, Gale R. Burstein, MD

SUSPENSION

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Health Department
Re: Authorization to Enter into Contract with WellCare of New York, Inc.
Date: October 31, 2016

SUMMARY

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize entering into a contract WellCare of New York, Inc. retroactive to March 1, 2016.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Positive. Contracting with WellCare Inc. will allow the Erie County Department of Health clinics to bill and receive reimbursement from the insurance of covered individuals.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Department of Health will be able to recuperate funds by billing for services rendered. Affected services will include immunizations and sexual transmitted disease treatment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2014 changes in New York State law require and encourage local health departments (LHDs) to attempt to bill insurance whenever possible for various Article VI services.

WellCare of New York, Inc. focuses exclusively on providing government-sponsored managed care services, primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, to families, children, seniors and individuals.

The Erie County Department of Health has recently reached an agreement with WellCare to be added to their network of covered providers.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Health Department will not be able to bill for services rendered to individuals with WellCare insurance.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will follow the appropriate steps necessary to enter into the contract.

SUSPENSION

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Authorization to Enter into Contract with WellCare of New York, Inc.

WHEREAS, New York State Public Health Law Article VI encourage local health departments to seek reimbursement for services rendered to individuals with health insurance; and

WHEREAS, WellCare of New York, Inc. is a health care insurance provider which focuses exclusively on providing government-sponsored managed care services, primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, to families, children, seniors and individuals; and

WHEREAS, by entering into a contract with WellCare of New York, Inc., the Erie County Department of Health will be able to bill for services rendered to individuals with WellCare of New York, Inc. health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to authorize the County Executive to enter into a contract with WellCare of New York, Inc. beginning March 1, 2016 .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive to enter into contract and amendments to that contract with WellCare of New York, Inc. beginning March 1, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner in the Erie County Health Department, 9th Floor, Rath Building.